AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

54. (Currently Amended) A medical device to treat the heart, comprising:

a plurality of non-overlapping hinge elements ~~arranged~~ extending circumferentially on an outer surface of the heart to impart compressive force on the heart during diastole and systole; and

the hinge elements being configured to be delivered minimally invasively.

55. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements extend circumferentially around the heart and are self-sizing.

56. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements extend circumferentially around the heart and are self-attaching.

57. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements extend circumferentially around the heart and are self-tensioning.

58. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements extend circumferentially around the heart and are self-adhering.

59. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements generate a compressive force on the heart of not more than 10 mm Hg.

60. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 59, wherein the hinge elements have a compliance that increases as a function of increased stretch.

61. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 59, wherein the hinge elements have a compliance that does not decrease as a function of increased stretch.

62. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements are formed into strips that extend circumferentially around the heart.

63. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements are formed into strips that are compressible to a low profile, minimally invasive delivery diameter.

Claim 64. (Cancel)

65. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 63, wherein the strips are self-expanding from the low profile, minimally invasive delivery diameter to an expanded diameter that self-adjusts to the shape of the heart.

66. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements are formed from Nitinol.

67. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements are elastic and have a deformed shape and a recovered shape when a load is applied and removed respectively.

68. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements are compressible to a delivery diameter no greater than minimally invasive access between the patient's ribs.

69. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements are compressible to a delivery diameter no greater than minimally invasive access subcostally.

70. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements are compressible to a delivery diameter no greater than minimally invasive access percutaneously through the skin.